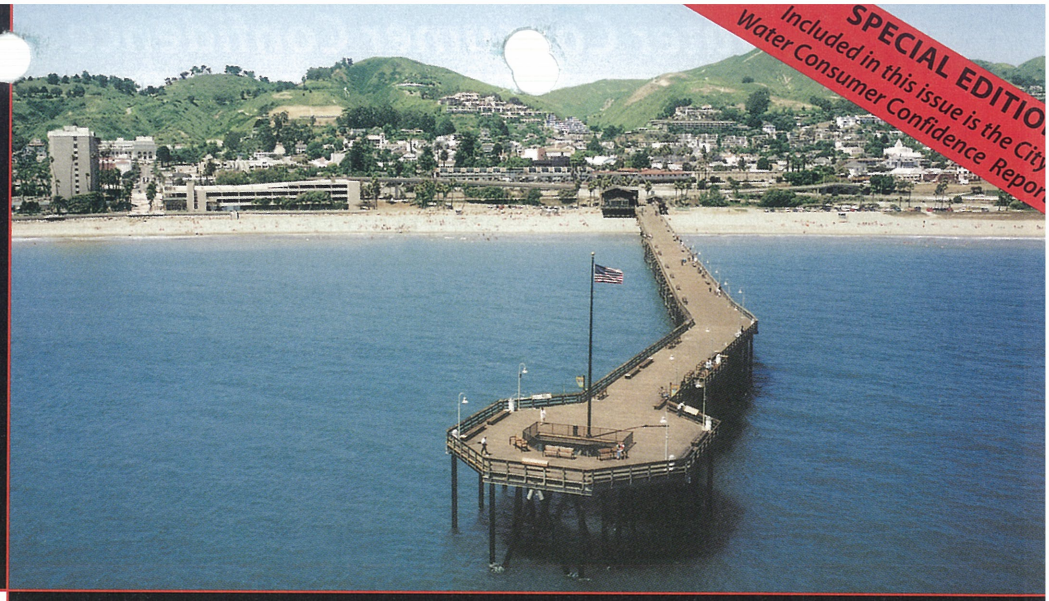
FutureFocus
Making Ventura Even Better!

In This Issue:



June - August 2002 Issue No. 23

City of San Buenaventura's Community Newsletter

Ventura's Historical Landmarks

In 1974 the City began identifying and designating historic landmarks to preserve and protect local history.

I noticed that City Hall is a historic landmark. What are some other historic landmarks in the City?

City Hall, at 501 Poli Street, is one of 92 historic landmarks in the City. The Plaza Park Moreton Bay Fig Tree, Great Pacific Iron Works, Cassidy Dairy Ranch and China Alley Historic Area are a few other landmarks.

A landmark may be an existing structure, or a natural feature having historic, aesthetic or special character. The site must be identified with historically important events or possess distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or work of a master builder.

My house was built in the 1920s. Can I obtain a historic landmark designation?

Generally, any property that is at least 50 years old can be nominated and considered for a historic landmark designation. Applications can be obtained at the Planning Counter in room 117 of City Hall.

How does the City determine historic landmarks?

City Council established the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) to advise and make recommendations concerning landmark designation. The HPC's recommendations are forwarded to the Planning Commission and ultimately the City Council declares all landmarks.

Are there any unusual landmarks in Ventura?

The HPC considers the World War II Gun Emplacements, at the mouth of the Ventura River, as the most unusual. The site has remains of one of 10 original Southern California WWII coastal artillery sites.

For more information contact Brian Randall, Assistant Planner at 654-7882 or brandall@ci.ventura.ca.us.

World War II Gun Emplacements, at the mouth of the Ventura River

Community Park Update

Join in to support the new Ventura Community Park. With ground breaking scheduled for early this fall, the park will be built on a 100-acre parcel at the corner of Telephone and Kimball Roads.

Community leader Jim McConica is leading the campaign that will provide residents, businesses and organizations the opportunity to support the park with donations at various levels. The campaign steering committee is comprised of representatives from sports groups, healthcare, business, agriculture and the community at large. A preliminary fundraising goal of $1 million has been established.

To volunteer or for information on how you can contribute to the park, please contact Kelly Nicely at 677-3914, knicely@ci.ventura.ca.us, or visit the Community Park booth at the July 4th Street Fair.

2002 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

The City of Ventura is here to help you dispose of items such as fertilizer, insecticide and paint.

Saturdays, July 27 and October 26

Non-acceptable waste:
medical, explosives, radioactive, smoke detectors and compressed gas cylinders.

Appointment required. Call MSE Environmental at 987-0717, Monday - Friday
(Limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds per visit)

City of Ventura Environmental Services Office 652-4525

Water Consumer Confidence Report – 2002

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VENTURA PUBLIC WORKS

The City of Ventura welcomes this opportunity to provide you with water quality information. This Water Consumer Confidence Report was prepared in compliance with regulatory requirements. Ventura's Water Division aims to ensure the water provided meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

Local Water Sources

The City has three local water sources; each accounts for approximately one third of the entire water supply. A portion of Ventura's water is from the Ventura River near the Foster Park area and is pumped from four shallow wells. Water is also distributed from Lake Casitas, which is operated and treated by the Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD). Additional water is pumped from four groundwater wells and two standby wells near the Buenaventura Golf Course, Ventura County Government Center and Saticoy. In order to produce, treat and distribute safe water to our customers, the City owns and operates these 10 wells, three water treatment plants, 22 booster pump stations, 25 treated water reservoirs and more than 350 miles of distribution pipelines.

Water Treatment

All of the City's water receives treatment. Water from the Ventura River is treated by a method referred to as Conventional Treatment. This process involves coagulation (chemical additon), flocculation (gentle agitation), sedimentation (settling particles), filtration and disinfection-with chlorine. Additionally, the groundwater sources are treated to remove iron and manganese, and disinfected. CMWD treats the water with direct filtration from Lake Casitas prior to delivery into the City's system.

The City anticipates a change in its water system disinfectant from Chlorine to Chloramines in late 2002. Chloramines are chemicals which contain chlorine and ammonia. Chloramines were selected as the preferred disinfectant because of their ability to provide disinfection over an extended period, and for better taste and less odor compared to using chlorine. Chloramines have been proven to help deliver water to customers with lower levels of trihalomethanes (TTHMs), which are potentially harmful byproducts of the chlorine disinfection process.

Although Chloramines are desirable in protecting the water distribution system, their use may require additional precautions for some water uses. If a member of your household requires dialysis, you should contact your physician or dialysis service provider to assure proper protective equipment is used. If you use tap water for fish or other aquatic animals, you will need to test and be sure the water is completely dechloraminated before use. Setting water in an open container for 24 hours prior to use with fish will not remove all chloramines in the water. Your local pet store can provide information and products for the proper removal of chloramines.

Water Quality Monitoring

Ventura owns and operates a full-scale, state-certified laboratory to monitor water quality. All treatment plants are run by state-certified operators and have instrumentation that continuously monitors specific water constituents to ensure that the water is of high quality.

In 1999, the second round of sampling and testing for Lead and Copper levels was completed. Of the 36 residential samples taken, only one exceeded the Copper regulatory action level, and no samples exceeded the Lead regulatory action level. In addition to the water quality constituents listed on the Water Quality Summary Table (see back page), the City sampled for many other regulated constituents, all of which were below detection limits.

Water Quality Studies

The City updated the *Sanitary Survey of the Ventura River Watershed* in May 2001. This study recommended additional monitoring of the watershed for potential Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Bacteria, Nutrients, Bromide, Total Organic Carbon, Chloride and Conductivity. In the Spring of 2002, the City began this additional monitoring at 15 sites along the river and tributaries.

A separate drinking water source assessment for Ventura River and groundwater wells was completed in January 2002. No contaminants have been detected in the water supply from surrounding sources. Gas stations, agricultural drainage, dry cleaners, urban run off, septic/sewer systems, metal plating/finishing and repair shops are considered the most probable sources of contamination of these water supplies.

As a water supplier, the City must complete an evaluation of their supply with respect to Public Health Goals (PHG) every three years. The City completed an evaluation in 2001, which determined the only element in our drinking water that exceeded any PHG was Copper. Copper is found in water as a result of the corrosion of Copper plumbing fixtures used in most homes. The mandatory Maximum Contaminant Level for Copper is 1300 parts per billion (ppb), the PHG is 170 ppb and the detected level was 720 ppb. The City water supply meets the mandatory standard.

Potential Concerns

In order to ensure tap water is safe, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Health Services prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The City of Ventura treats its water according to these regulations. The regulations of the Food and Drug Administration establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does

not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that could be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture and livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals such as people with cancer, those undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections and are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illnesses. The City encourages immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

The City takes precautions to eliminate the risk of infection from microbial contaminants, including Giardia and Cryptosporidium, from its water system. These organisms are found in surface water throughout the U.S., and ingesting them may cause an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. To evaluate the possible risks present in the Ventura River Watershed, the City tested for these contaminants, finding Cryptosporidium at only one raw water location in the Foster Park area. The City's treatment processes for surface water include coagulation, filtration and Chlorine disinfection to remove or kill these organisms. The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Water Quality Terminology

The Ventura's Water Quality Summary on the back page shows constituents measured in Ventura's water and reported to the State Department of Health Services, and in some cases the USEPA. Some of the terminology used is described below:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary (health related) MCLs are set as close to the Public Health Goals (PHGs) or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary (aesthetically related) MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to one's health. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to one's health. The California Environmental Protection Agency sets PHGs.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Regulatory Action Level (RAL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

For More Information

If you would like a copy of the City of Ventura's *Sanitary Survey of the Ventura River* or *Source Water Assessment* or would like more information regarding water quality, please contact Ventura's Water Superintendent at 652-4500. This *Water Consumer Confidence Report* is also available on the City's website at **www.ci.ventura.ca.us**.

If you have questions or concerns regarding Ventura's water, you are invited to express your opinions at City Council meetings held each Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para más información, por favor llame 658-4785.

Your City Council

Ray Di Guilio, Mayor
Brian Brennan, Deputy Mayor
Neal Andrews, Councilmember
James J. Friedman, Councilmember
James L. Monahan, Councilmember
Carl E. Morehouse, Councilmember
Sandy E. Smith, Councilmember

City Councilmembers may be reached by e-mail at ***council@ci.ventura.ca.us*** or by calling 654-7827. This number is answered during business hours by City staff.

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In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by calling 654-7850 or 654-7766 TDD.

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Ventura's Water Quality Summary – 2002

Utilizing data collected in 2001. Only water quality constituents detected by laboratory testing appear in the chart.

PRIMARY STANDARDS (PDWS)	Units	Maximum Level MCL	State Goal PHG	Federal Goal MCLG	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Water Clarity											
Turbidity	NTU	5	NA	NA	0.24 (a)	0.09- 0.24	0.4	0.1 - 0.4	0.13 (b)	0.01- 0.13	Soil runoff.
	NTU	TT	NA	NA	100% (a)	NA	NA	NA	100% (b)	NA	Process variations.
Radioactive Contaminants											
Gross Alpha particle activity (c)	pCi/l	15	0	0	3.8	2.1 - 5.8	6.7	2.7 - 12.1	2	0.9 - 2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Beta particle activity (c)	pCi/l	50	0	0	4	ND - 8.0	8	ND - 15.8	NA	NA	Decay of natural and manmade deposits.
Radium 226 and 228 (c)	pCi/l	5	0	0	0.63	ND - 1.7	1.1	ND - 1.7	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (c)	pCi/l	20	0.5	0	2.4	1.8 - 3.4	5.1	2.8 - 8.5	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants											
Aluminum	ppb	1000	0.6	NA	ND	ND	89	63 - 114	ND	ND	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from surface water treatment processes.
Arsenic	ppb	50	NA	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND	2	2	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production waste.
Barium	ppm	1	2	2	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.1	0.1	Discharge from oil drilling waste and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	1	0.5	0.4 - 0.6	0.5	0.5- 0.8	0.2	0.2	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	10	0.8	ND - 1.3	0.5	ND - 0.9	ND	ND	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Chromium VI	ppb	NS	NS	NS	0.14	0.11- 0.15	ND	ND	NA	NA	

PRIMARY STANDARDS for Distribution System	Units	MCL	PHG	MCLG	Distribution System Average	Distribution System Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Disinfection							
Chlorine Residual	ppm	4	NA	NA	1.1	0.2 - 2.2	
Disinfection By Products							
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	100	NA	NA	49 (d)	3 - 100	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	NA	39 (d)	1 - 65	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliform Bacteria	NA	5%	0	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	NA	0	0	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.

LEGEND

- **NA:** Not applicable
- **ND:** Not detectable
- **NS:** No standard
- **NTU:** Turbidity, a measure of the clarity or cloudiness of the water.
- **ppb:** Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
- **ppm:** Parts per million or milligrams per liter.
- **pCi/l:** Picocurries per liter, a measure of radioactivity in water.
- **CMWD:** Casitas Municipal Water District
- **TT:** Treatment Techniques. The approved filtration technology used for performance standards that must be met through the water treatment process.

Lead and Copper Samples	Units	RAL	PHG	MCLG	Samples Collected	Above RAL	90th Percentile	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	15	2	2	36 (e)	0	ND	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.17	0.17	36 (e)	1	0.72	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.

SECONDARY STANDARDS	Units	Maximum Level MCL	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range
Aesthetic Standards								
Color	Color	15	ND	ND	4.1	ND - 5	2	1 - 2
Odor	Threshold	3	ND	ND	ND	ND - 2	2	1 - 2
Chloride	ppm	500	28	24 - 36	67	27 - 97	11	11 - 12
Corrosivity	ppm	Non corrosive	0.23	-0.21 - 0.47	0.37	0.13 - 0.71	0.3	0.3
Iron	ppb	300	ND	ND	ND	ND - 200	NS	NS
Total dissolved solids	ppm	1000	498	460 - 558	1133	994 - 1392	370	370
Specific conductance	umhos	1600	756	650 - 800	1560	1376 - 1800	524	500 - 560
Sulfate	ppm	500	189	171 - 197	546	192 - 710	132	132
Additional Constituents								
pH	pH units	6.5 - 8.5	7.7	7.5 - 7.9	7.5	7.1 - 8.1	NA	NA
Hardness	ppm	NS	334	263 - 517	587	531 - 711	225	225
Calcium	ppm	NS	81	64 - 96	159	146 - 182	NA	NA
Magnesium	ppm	NS	27	24 - 29	46	39 - 62	NA	NA
Sodium	ppm	NS	34	27 - 38	130	97 - 166	23	23
Phosphate	ppm	NS	0.1	0.1 - 0.21	0.1	0.07 - 0.15	NA	NA
Potassium	ppm	NS	2.5	2.3 - 2.9	4.8	4.1 - 5.4	NA	NA
Total Alkalinity	ppm	NS	160	141 - 187	235	151 - 289	NA	NA

Ventura River at Foster Park

Footnotes: (a) Average is maximum reading. Avenue Plant TT= 95% of samples equal or below 0.5 NTU (b) Average is maximum reading. CMWD TT= 95% of samples equal or below 0.2 NTU
(c) All radiological samples were taken in 1998 through 2001. Figure is an average of four samples. (d) Running Average (e) Samples were taken at selected households on a first draw in September 1999.